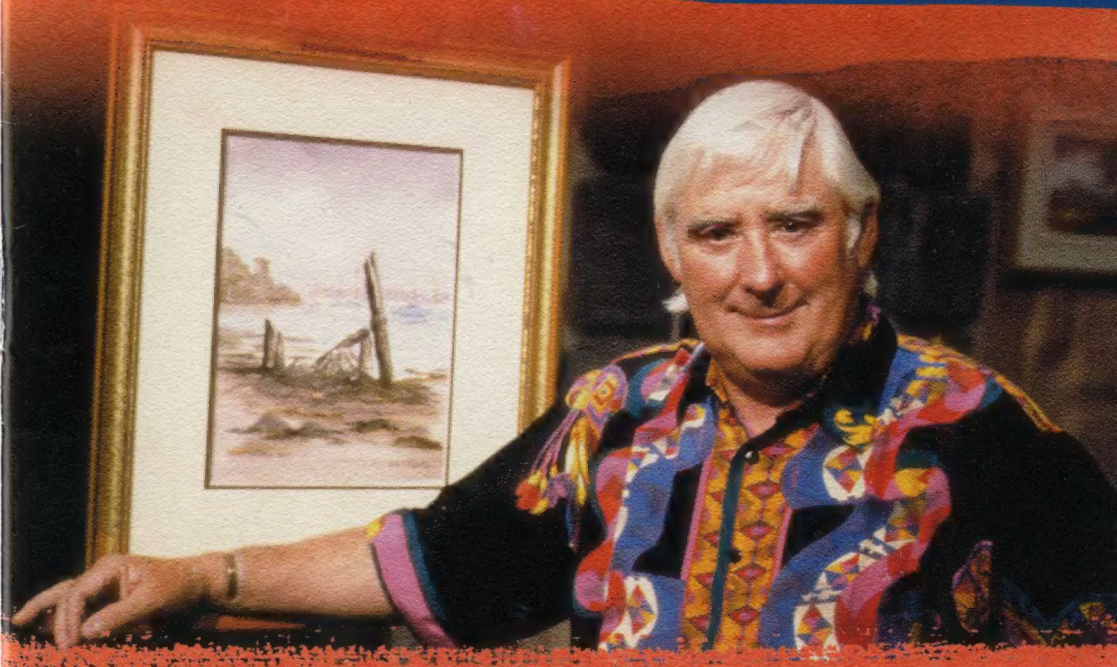


FRANK CLARKE

*Simply Painting*TM

Tips, Hints and Tricks

**From the International
T.V. Series**



FRANK CLARKE - A BIOGRAPHY

Frank Clarke is married to Peg and they have three boys. He was born in Dublin and after leaving college, became a Radio Officer, but never went to sea. Instead, he became a dress designer and worked in his family clothing business for several years, before becoming interested in property development and rose to the position as Director of a large property company.

During this period, his hobbies were motorcycle racing, fishing and golfing. Having retired from business at the early age of 38, he decided to try his hand at painting, but was told by his art teacher that he did not have the gift. Frank, however, is not one to take failure lightly, so he purchased and read every art instruction book he could find. It was then that he realised that they all seem to have a common flaw. They all assumed he had a prior knowledge of how to paint, and therefore it was not necessary to show budding artists how and where to start. Knowing the opposite to be true and having taught himself how to paint, he decided to hold his type of painting classes. The one condition was that the students had to be complete **beginners**. Over a three year period he taught his new found teaching method and started 1000's of complete novices on the road to painting. Frank soon realised that there was a demand for his teaching method as his classes were now full to overflowing. He was unable to fulfil the requests for his services.



His wife Peg suggested he should write a book, thinking he would spend more time at home - he was retired, she gently pointed out! He wrote his first book, which was published in 1992 and to quote himself "it took almost two years to write and was the most difficult thing I ever did." This first book became a best-seller, outselling all other art teaching books combined in it's first year in Ireland. By then Frank had also made his first television series and Peg realised that instead of Frank being at home more often the opposite was the case. Seeing he was hooked on this path and knowing when Frank made his mind up to do something he was difficult to side-track, she decided to join him and now travels the world with him.

Frank has since made over one hundred and fifty half hour programmes. These programmes appear on over 200 television stations world-wide, including Ireland, United States, England, Australia, New Zealand. He has produced 4 books and many videos. He created has his own painting materials which are used by both children and adults.

His programmes run as adult education programming and are part of the school curriculum in many countries. His "Have Some More Fun" system is suitable for anyone over the age of 4 years and as he says himself: "I'm only scratching the surface. Because painting was always considered difficult and only for the chosen few, this myth was circulated by the elitist section of the art world. They are missing the point. Art and painting is for everyone". This fact is borne out by the thousands of letters he gets, expressing gratitude for the fun and enjoyment that can be derived from the hobby of painting.

"So give it a go. Remember painting is a desire - not a gift. Anyone can paint, it's a fact."

So it's over to Frank and his assistant,
Mr Brush.

HAVE SOME MORE FUN

How does my system work?

Well as I always say, someone has to show you how to start and it has to be simple. When I started to teach I found the one thing all beginners, and even some amateur painters had in common was a very disordered approach to their work. The very same applied to me when I started to paint. I was unsure where to start and when I did, I was jumping about the paper like a bucket of frogs.



So I was determined to devise a system which students found easy to use and remember. The answer was to break down every picture into four distinct parts. Once they did this their painting improved in leaps and bounds. However, as students left the class and did not paint again for some weeks or months, they seemed to forget what they were shown. So I racked my brains and found what I wanted to say in a simple unforgettable sentence:-

“Have Some More Fun”.

The first letter of the four words represents how to paint a picture
e.g.

Have = Horizon

Some = Sky

More = Middleground

Fun = Foreground

In the following pictures you can see how the method works.

HAVE - HORIZON

First we draw our horizon line, always straight across the board.

Some- Sky

Then starting, at the top of your picture and keeping above the horizon line, paint in the sky.



More - Middleground

Next just above the horizon line paint in a letter "M" to represent the mountains.



Fun - Foreground

Last we paint the foreground.



Have Some More Fun is the unique technique behind the *Simply Painting* concept and the method I use to paint all my pictures. If you use this chapter as your guiding light you will begin to realise how simple and enjoyable painting is and you will be able to **Have Some More Fun**.

MATERIALS: It is no excuse telling me you don't have materials. You can start using "The *Simply Painting* System" with a pen or pencil, watercolour, oils, crayons, acrylics or any other medium and then obtain the *Simply Painting* materials at your leisure.

It is of course easier if you use the recommended materials.

My choice of materials are cut to a minimum for two reasons: one, the less materials you have the less expense you are put to. Secondly and more importantly, it is not my intention to burden the beginner with hundreds of different colours and dozens of brushes which can only cause confusion. I know I did just that when I started. I went to an art supply store and was confronted with a vast array of different materials and not wanting to seem stupid, collected brushes, paint and paper, paid for same and returned home almost glad to be out of such a forbidding shop. The problem was my mixture of materials was made up of oil brushes, watercolour brushes, acrylic brushes. The same applied to the paints and paper, and I find this happening at every one of my classes where beginners arrive with a selection of different paint, brushes etc., to paint watercolour and who can blame them they get no guidance or help and like myself, are probably too shy to ask. I don't want to sound longwinded but I am only expressing what happened to me and many students when they started to partake of this wonderful hobby. Glad to say, some of the newer art and craft stores are now realising what I have said and are catering for the beginner.

One last point. Like any other craft, what's the use of purchasing the materials if you are not shown how to use them? I make the comparison: "what's the use of a set of knitting needles and wool without a pattern." Painting is no different, but unfortunately, many people believe painting is some kind of Divine Gift only bestowed on people with a special talent - THIS IS NONSENSE, ANYONE CAN PAINT. Maybe some are better than others, but that's the same with any craft or hobby, but this does not detract from the enjoyment. Ask any needle-worker, basket-maker, potter, golfer, tennis player etc.

Have I preached enough, I think so. Well let's get organised.

First the **paint**, which are **watercolours**. I use eight colours: Lemon Yellow, Raw Sienna, Burnt Umber, Paynes Grey, Alizarin Crimson, Light Red, Ultramarine Blue and Cobalt Blue.

Brushes: I use three. One and a half inch *Simply Painting* Goat Hair Brush. A half inch *Simply Painting* Goat Hair Brush. No.3 Rigger *Simply Painting* Brush.

Watercolour Paper 14 x10inch (355x255mm): at least 140lb. This is thickness - thinner paper has a tendency to cockle when wet and is difficult to work with.

Other materials: One large plate or tray to mix your paint on. One container to hold water. Some mop-up cloths. A board to tape your paper to about 20x16inch (500x400mm). Pencil, eraser.

That's it. All you need now is the desire. Now let me tell you how to make the best use of your materials.

Paint Mixing:	Blue and Yellow	= Green
	Alizarin and Yellow	= Orange
	Alizarin and Blue	= Purple

These are some of the mixtures you need. Why not try other mixes - it's a great exercise.

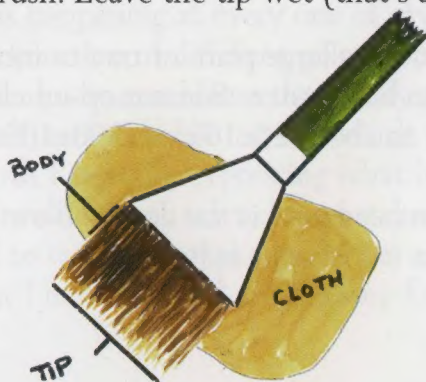
CONTROLLING WATER

Brushes: A paint brush is like a pen or pencil. Can you remember how awkward it was the first time you tried to write? Now it's second nature. The same applies to paint brushes, it takes a little practice to get used to them. Just remember the most difficult thing you ever did was to learn to write your name, learning to paint is much easier.

You will have noticed that the *Simply Painting* brush IS LARGE!!!, and because it is, it can hold lots of water so, before you start to paint, you must learn to control the water in your brush. To do so you need an old cloth.

By using the following method with a little practice you will be able to control the amount of water needed to paint.

1. Dip your large brush into the water and using the cloth, dry the body of the brush. Leave the tip wet (that's all there is to it).



2. Repeat this process each time you dip your brush into the water.

SKIES

Skies, without doubt, are the most important part of the watercolours landscape and if I could only give you one piece of advice it would be paint as many skies as you can. Once you have mastered them, you have mastered watercolours.

Skies can be many different colours, but all can be painted using one method, so let's get to it.



The method I use to paint skies is the wet into wet system. Let me explain how it works.

1. Wet the paper down as far as the horizon, using the large *Simply Painting* goat hair brush. This can be done either with clean water or a very weak mixture of Raw Sienna, and make sure you don't make the mix too strong, it's just to create a faint wash of colour on the area where you are going to paint the sky.
2. While the paper is wet add some blue - starting from the top of the paper - it's easier. **WARNING - THIS MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO MINUTES.** But don't worry, that's plenty of time.



FOREGROUNDS

The important thing to remember when painting foregrounds is keep them as simple as possible. Another trick used by watercolourists is big skies and small foregrounds, equal quicker, easier pictures. To do that keep your horizon line low.

A natural follow onto Foregrounds is texture, which means using thick paint to create an impression of rocks in the grass. This is done by using different colours dabbed on the paper with the largest brush, which when you stand back from the picture, gives the impression of the ground nearest to you.



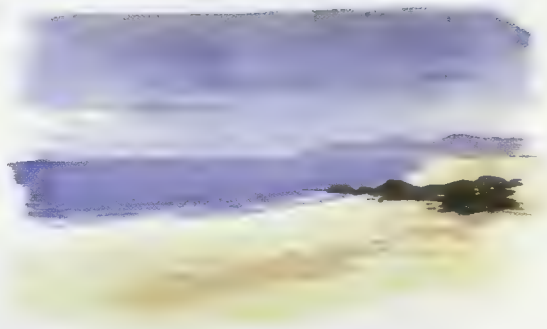
SEASCAPES

To paint beach scenes, one tip to remember, don't put in too much water.

Fig. 1 - Wrong



Fig. 2 - Right



BOATS

There are several different methods you can use for painting boats. This is probably stating the obvious, but let me show you some of the methods:

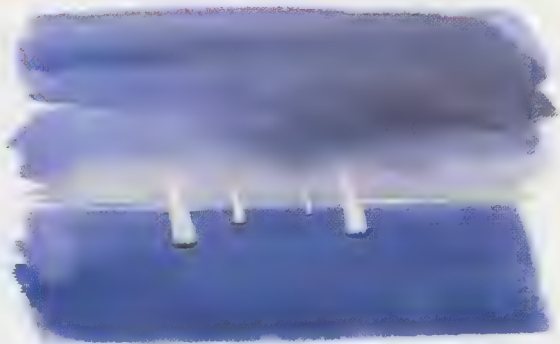
1. Draw a rectangle

Fig. 3



Then at each end draw a triangle - that is a simple rowboat.

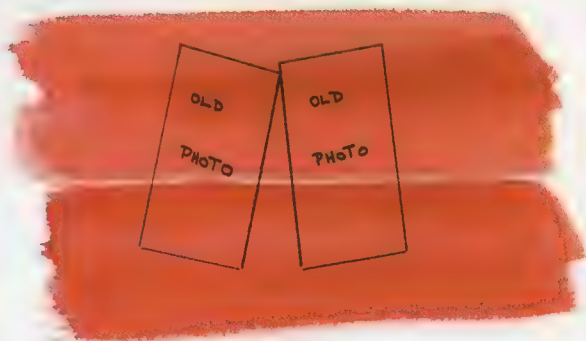
Next, let's paint a sailboat using White Gouache. After you have completed the rest of your picture (when it's dry) paint in a sail with a small brush (the rigger).



If you want to paint more sailboats, make some big and some small - this creates the impression of a regatta! When you have the sail painted and dry, paint the hull. The hull can be a different colour.

Tip: The bigger boats should be lower down the paper. It gives the impression of the boat being near to you.

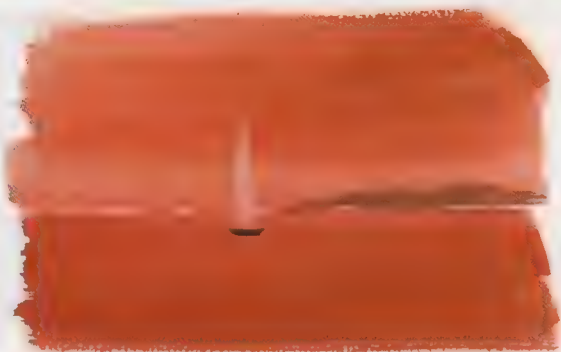
Here's another way to paint sailboats. First paint your picture, let it dry.



Now, take two pieces of paper or two photos - don't use your favourite one as you may damage them.

1. Place the two photos in the shape of a sail on the picture where you want the sailboat to be.

Now with a piece of damp tissue, rub between the two photos. Remove the photos and wow! - a sail.



Now paint in the hull.

If you would like to make a reflection in the sea, all you have to do is turn your picture upside down and repeat the process.

You now have a sailboat with a reflection. Make sure you make the reflection the same size. Pretty simple - when you know how, isn't it?



Our last boat is on the beach so let's draw a number 8 on it's side and a little flat.



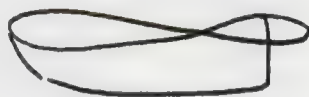
Now draw a vertical line from the centre of the right-hand loop.



Next draw a curved line at the end of left hand loop.



Join up the two lines.



Last, join the right edge of the loop to the bottom of the right-hand vertical line you have yourself a rowing boat.



That should be enough boats to keep you happy!



MOUNTAINS

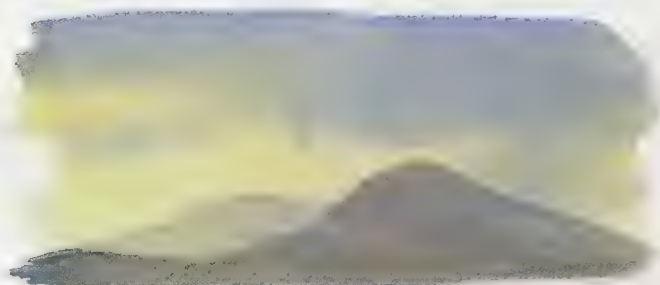
Let me show you how to paint a mountain range (this one is from my favourite area in Ireland - Connemara). First paint the sky, now let it dry (or use a hairdryer if you are impatient, like me).



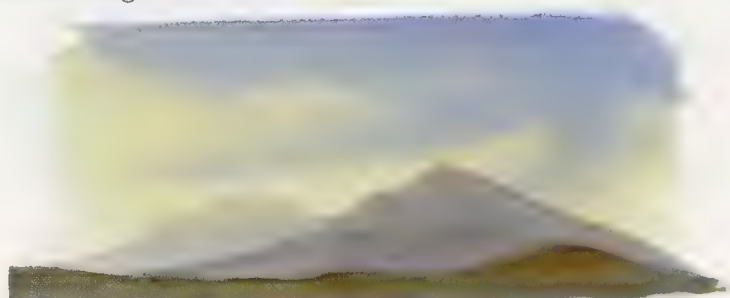
Now let's paint our mountains or the letter M as I call them.



Use the same mixture you painted the sky with - as most mountains are the same colour as the sky. Use the large *Simply Painting* goathair brush and paint the mountains.



Now let them dry. Now let's assume you want to create the effect that some of the mountains are further away. When the first mountains are dry, once again, with a large brush, paint the mountains you want to appear nearer. This gives us two separate mountain ranges.



If you want, you can repeat the process for a third time and so on.

MISTY MOUNTAINS

This is one of the most requested tips. Just paint the sky and dry it or let it dry.



Now, using the small *Simply Painting* goathair brush, start from the bottom of the mountain. Using the same mixture as the sky, paint half way up the mountain.



Now clean your brush, and with clean water only, continue to paint up the mountain.



Now, using the same paint as you used on the bottom of the mountain, paint the mountain top. Now let it dry.

Try this a couple of times and you will be fine.

Here is another way to paint misty mountains, which you can try. Once again, paint the sky, let it dry. Now paint the mountains as you did to create the mountain range, then, while the mountains are still wet, using a tissue paper, dab out some paint.

There are other ways, but we will save them for another time.

CARROTS

If you have read any of books or watched my T.V. shows, you will be familiar with carrot people. When I wrote my first book, I was advised to leave out the carrot people. It was felt they were silly - how wrong can you be? So let me show you how to use them. First draw your carrots, 10 at least.



Now put dots on them.



If you want to create scale in your pictures, use carrot people.



A CARROT ON HORSEBACK

Since the early days of carrot people, I have developed other types of carrots.

1. Draw a carrot. Now put a tail on it.



Now on top of carrot, draw a half carrot. Finish off by putting a dot on the half - carrot.

You have a carrot on horseback. Ideal for your landscape.

Now let's make him come towards us.

1. Draw a carrot.
2. Draw a small carrot (with ears)
3. Put carrot on top.
4. This time leave face white.



SHEEP

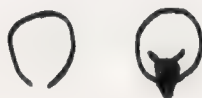
If you like to paint landscapes, it's nice to be able to paint sheep, so here are some ways to paint sheep.

1. Paint a horseshoe shape.
2. Put a small carrot on head.
3. Put ears and legs on.



SHEEP GRAZING

To make the sheep graze, reverse the horseshoe and put the head on the ground.

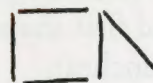


Here is another way to draw sheep.

1. Draw a square.



2. Put in a triangle in front.



3. Put a head and legs on.



1. Paint your picture and when you have finished and it's dry, put in some sheep. First lightly draw the sheep where you want them in your picture using a pencil.

Then using White Gouache and the small *Simply Painting* Rigger brush, or any small brush, paint white sheep.

When they are dry, paint in the legs and head.



WARNING: make sure the White Gouache is dry before painting the head and legs.

TREES

To paint a tree, start from the ground up, (it is the way they grow) and first shape the skeleton of the tree (the trunk and the branches).

Make sure the trunk and branches are thick enough to withstand the weight of the leaves and of course the wind. Also remember that branches start quite low down the tree. Most beginners seem to think the branches start forty feet up the tree. Also be careful not to make the tree trunks look like telegraph poles.

When the time comes to put some leaves on your tree, always start with light colours and then add darker shades.

This is called working light to dark. This is the way watercolours are painted. The last point about trees is to be careful to put some leaves on the centre of the tree.





Dear Friend,

I hope this booklet has been a help to you and that you are now realising that the hobby of painting is not as difficult as many people believe. It is in fact one of the most therapeutic and satisfying hobbies I know. Just think about it- how do you keep your children happy and contented? Just give them a piece of paper and some paints. You see no one told them they can't paint. In fact it was once said by no less a man than Picasso - "It has taken me fifty years to learn to paint like a child".

I am lucky to have the pleasure to teach people of all ages and indeed the biggest barrier without doubt is not people's inability to paint but to get them to believe that they can. So remember you can do it and **"have some more fun"**.

Frank Clarke

Simply Painting™

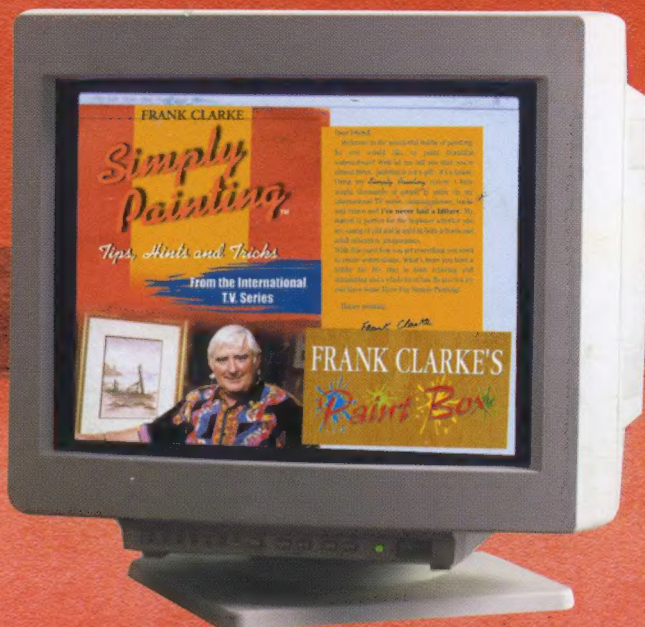
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